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Urban District of Lakes

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1949

LIVERPOOL
C. TINLING AND COMPANY LIMITED, PRINTERS, 53, VICTORIA STREET

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To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Lakes

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the health of the Urban District during the year 1949.

The gradual post-war resumption of progress in public health practice has been complicated by the initial difficulties of the first year's operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and the National Assistance Act, 1948.

This legislative upheaval has split Medicine into three poorly co-ordinated divisions—the hospitals, general practice, and the public health service. The emphasis now lies upon the curative services of the regionally controlled hospitals. The enormous cost of treatment will soon focus more attention upon the preventive services, for the adage that prevention is better than cure was never more appropriate than in this year of Grace.

I believe that these statutes offer great opportunities for advancement in the primary functions of hygiene and preventive medicine if the public health service of the local authorities can take its logical place in a more united trinity of medicine. It has a proud record in the past and still great faith in the future.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the local general medical practitioners.

I am indebted also to the Sanitary Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

I have the honour to be,
Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
FRANK T. MADGE,
Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Urban District in acres	49,917
Population (mid 1949)	5,290
Inhabited Houses	1,724
Rateable Value	£57,874

The Urban District of Lakes lies in the heart of the English Lake District and will be the nucleus of the proposed National Park. About three miles of the north-eastern shore of Windermere Lake is within the District, and the inhabited areas are sited along three main valley systems which radiate from the Lake. To the west lie the Langdales, to the north the dales of Rydal and Grasmere, and to the north-east the Troutbeck Valley, which leads over the Kirkstone Pass to the geographically detached dalehead of Patterdale and Glenridding at the head of Ullswater Lake. Your Council Offices are situated at Ambleside.

The valleys' bottoms lie between 150 and 300 feet above sea level in the major western portion, and in the Patterdale area at about 500 feet. The massive crags and fells rise steeply to altitudes of between two and three thousand feet, comprising some of the finest mountain scenery in Great Britain. Some of the valleys are wooded but the fellsides are majestically covered only by brackens and heather. The stone-built houses are scattered irregularly along the valleys, with only two large villages or townships of any size, Ambleside and Grasmere. The District is therefore essentially rural in character. These geographical features determine the natural lines of communication and therefore influence the spread of infectious disease.

The geology of the District is almost entirely confined to the Borrowdale Volcanic series of lavas, tuffs and agglomerates with some igneous intrusions. The lavas are mainly andesites with rhyolites at various horizons. The fragmentary rocks resulting from explosive eruptions vary from fine-grained tuffs and ashes to coarse agglomerates and breccias. Lateral pressure has converted some of the tuffs into slates suitable for roofing. In the extreme south of the District the thin bands of the Coniston Limestone and Ashgillian Series are interposed between the Borrowdale series and the commencement of the Silurian Rocks which stretch away to the South of the County. Workable deposits of non-ferrous metals, particularly lead, are found in the north-eastern part of the District. These geological characteristics are of great significance in the supervision of water supplies, Sewerage and occupational diseases as well as affecting the economics of the District.

The climate is mild and equable in the valleys, and invigorating on the fellsides and uplands. The dales of Rydal, Grasmere and Troutbeck are sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds, and, being open to the south, provide full access to sunshine. The Langdales are more exposed, and Patterdale, although sheltered, has a northerly aspect. Temperature gradient inversions are occasional in the spring and autumn but are soon dispelled in the mornings. The rainfall averages 70 inches a year, but this figure is due more to the heaviness of the rain when it occurs rather than to an undue proportion of rainy days. Snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is predominantly a holiday centre for climbing, walking and enjoying the scenery of mountains and lakes, and there is a large influx of seasonal visitors which raises the population to an estimated peak of approximately 8,000. This tourist trade has been imposed upon the basic characteristic of agriculture, mainly sheep-farming, and many of the small local industries are therefore ancillary to agriculture. There are also the following industries which provide a certain amount of local employment and stability to the District to help balance the fluctuating conditions and the seasonal holiday trade—

Slate Quarries.
Lead Mines.

Opportunities for local employment help to check the drift from the countryside. These industries together with the trade associated with the hotels and boarding houses, have provided a limited economic security and local prosperity which is a most important factor in the maintenance of public health.

The rateable value of the Urban District is £57,874 and the product of a penny rate is £218. The Rate for 1949/50 is 19/- in the Pound of which 14/7d. represents the County Rate.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications	Office	Whole or Part Time	Other Offices
F. T. Madge ...	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
J. H. McAdam ...	Cert.S.I.B.	Sanitary Inspector	Part	Building Surveyor
S. B. Grimes ...	—	Clerk	Part	—
B. M. Machell ...	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
W. N. Battersby ...	M.Inst.Gas Eng.	Water Engineer to 28·2·49	Part	Gas Engineer
A. F. Fildes ...	M.Inst.Mun. & Cy. Eng.	Water Engineer	Part	Surveyor

There have been only the above changes in the Water Department Staff during the year. Clerical assistance is afforded by the part-time service of a female clerk.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for 1948 for comparison.

Area of the District in acres 49,917

			1948	1949	
Estimated civilian population (mid-year)		...	5,207	5,290	
Live Births.	Legitimate—	males	31	30	
		females	30	22	
	Illegitimate—	males	4	4	
		females	1	2	
	Total		66	58	
Rate per 1,000 population			12·7	11·0	
Rate for England and Wales			17·9	16·7	
Stillbirths.	Legitimate—	males	1	2	
		females	1	—	
	Illegitimate—	males	—	1	
		females	—	—	
	Total		2	3	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			...	29·4	49·1
Rate per 1,000 population			0·38	0·57	
Rate for England and Wales			0·42	0·39	
Deaths.	Males		33	34	
	Females		37	52	
	Total		70	86	
Rate per 1,000 population			13·4	16·2	
Rate for England and Wales			10·8	11·7	
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)					
	Legitimate		1	—	
	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births...		16·4	—	
	Illegitimate		—	—	
	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births		—	—	
	Total Deaths under 1 year		1	—	
	Rate per 1,000 live births		15·2	—	
	Rate for England and Wales ...		34	32	

	1948	1949
Neonatal Deaths (under 1 month)		
Total neonatal deaths	1	—
Rate per 1,000 live births	15·2	—
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years)		
Deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 live births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales ...	3·3	3·0
Maternal Mortality		
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	—
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	—
Total Deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales ...	1·02	0·98

Deaths from certain causes

	1948	1949
Cancer	11	7
Measles	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil

The main causes of Death were:-

Heart Disease	35
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	13
Cancer	7

COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1949.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of your civilian mid-year resident population was 5,290 which is 83 more than last year. The increase may be represented as an excess of deaths over births of 28, and an immigration into your district of at least 111 persons.

A proper perspective cannot be obtained by considering merely one year's changes. It is the general trend of population which is important for the planning of your future housing, water and sewerage requirements, and for the broader issues of the economic prosperity of your District.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milks) Regula- authorities of Ambleside, Grasmere, South Westmorland and the West Ward were all steadily declining in population. For example, both Ambleside and Grasmere Urban Districts between 1911 and their absorption in 1935 showed a nett average loss per year of one-half per cent. The newly formed Lakes Urban District continued to experience the same decline until 1939. The causes of this decline were twofold, firstly, the number of deaths always exceeded the number of births, and even the birth-rate was well below the average for England and Wales; secondly, there were many people each year who left the district to settle elsewhere.

1939 saw the turn of the tide, and in the next three years there was an almost overwhelming immigration of war-evacuees from the vulnerable areas. Your District absorbed between 45 per cent and 50 per cent extra persons over its pre-war population, a feat normally achieved only at the peak of the short holiday season. When bombing ceased in the big towns the evacuees gradually left the Lakes, so that by 1946 you had returned to your normal pre-war population.

Your births have fallen below your deaths. Your birth-rate is about 70 per cent of the average for England and Wales, and well below your death rate. You are a naturally declining community—declining at a much faster pace than the rest of the nation, and the reasons are not difficult to see. The residential charm of the District will attract all the immigration you need to maintain your numbers.

Birth Rate.

I have already referred to the continued deplorably low birth-rate which for many years has been only two-thirds of the rate for England and Wales. Apart from the local economic circumstances the effect of

the two wars aggravated the position. The present child-bearing and begetting population suffered twice. There is a sad gap in their ranks due to the unborn casualties of the first world war, and at the onset of the second war their marriages were delayed, prevented or frustrated at the time of their maximum fertility. If your native community is to survive you must raise your birth-rate well above your death rate, and to do that you will have to recapture and hold the faith of your young people in country life.

Still-birth Rate.

The still-birth rate was satisfactory.

Death Rate.

Your death rate in 1949 was above the national average, but the general trend since 1935 has been almost identical with the rest of England and Wales. Your standardised death rate was 12·9.

Infantile and Neonatal Deaths.

There were happily no infant deaths. Your figures are too scanty to carry statistical significance on their own merits but as they run parallel with the figure for England and Wales I feel that they do reflect a very satisfactory improvement in child-care by the local doctors, nurses, and above all, by the young mothers in their homes.

Maternal Mortality.

Your clean record has been happily maintained.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

Disease.	Total.	Ages.												Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1
Erysipelas...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Aertryke Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	7	1	1	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	12	2	—	1	2	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	29	3	1	3	3	1	6	5	1	—	1	2	3	5	1

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Public Health Act, 1936, *Sections* 143-170.
National Health Service Act, 1946, *Part III.*

The District had a very fortunate year. There were a few scattered cases of measles and whooping cough during the summer, and only one case of scarlet fever.

No effective protection against measles has yet been discovered, but immunisation against whooping cough is now available and there seems every hope that this distressing illness in little children can be virtually wiped out within the next decade.

Scarlet fever is possibly getting milder than it was in Queen Victoria's reign, sanitary improvements have limited its chance of spreading, and the new antibiotic drugs have made its treatment so effective that it is now normally nursed at home. Scarlet fever is repressed rather than conquered.

Infantile paralysis was widespread throughout the country during 1949, but your share was limited to three cases in December at Ambleside, of which two were in one boarding school and the third in a day school. All the cases were mild. Control remains unsatisfactory in all countries.

Once more it is gratifying to report that there were no cases of diphtheria during the year. Since the weapon of immunisation became available the hard core has been smashed and I hope for all time. I wish to thank the local doctors and nurses for their efforts to secure immunisation of every baby before the first birthday and the school medical officers for their part.

The year was free from threatened smallpox but I do not think that people realise that we are now only 24 to 48 hours away by air from areas of ravage by this disease. Smallpox swept the country from time to time until some 50 years ago, when widespread vaccination checked its progress and vigilance at the seaports prevented its importation. A generation has grown up which is blinded by the complacency of false security, not yet realising that air travel has made smallpox once more a very real risk to the community.

Persons from abroad who may be incubating the disease arrive in this country well within the incubation period. It is most important that all children should be vaccinated in infancy. The present low vaccination state of the population is inviting trouble from this disfiguring and often

fatal disease. I cannot stress too strongly the wisdom of taking obvious precautions against preventable diseases.

Hospital and Ambulance arrangements for Infectious Diseases.
National Health Service Act, 1946, *Parts II and III.*

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Regional Hospital Boards Manchester and Newcastle, at Lancaster, Penrith and Carlisle.

Ambulance transport for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Westmorland County Council.

Disinfection Arrangements.

Disinfection facilities for clothing and bedding are not very satisfactory owing to the lack of a steam disinfector. Reliance is therefore placed usually upon disinfection with formaldehyde in the patient's house. Disinfection of premises and other chattels is carried out locally and presents no special problems.

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	2	1	—	1	1	—	—

Of the cases notified 2 pulmonary cases were transferred from other areas and 1 pulmonary case died during the year.

HOUSING.

The Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949.

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your district, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have power to deal with unfit houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's housing estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

Present Housing Position.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 57.

There are 1,724 inhabited houses in your District. With an estimated population of 5,290 the average number of persons per house is 3. This figure is purely hypothetical since many of the better houses have only one or two occupants, and a number of the smaller houses are occupied or let furnished only in holiday times by absentee landlords.

It is probable that the dalesmen's houses have an average of at least four persons per house, which is not excessive for a normal-sized family and there is probably little overcrowding within the strict definition of the Housing Act, which assumes that living rooms are used also for sleeping purposes, and that the sexes can be segregated irrespective of age, health or family relationships. Assessment of overcrowding based on a minimum bedroom standard is long overdue and would provide a more realistic picture of the domestic difficulties which are reflected in the application lists for new houses.

It is probable that overcrowding is temporarily increased during the peak of the holiday season, but no certificates under Section 61 of the Housing Act, 1936, have been granted by your Council to authorise exceeding the permitted numbers.

Since most of the smaller property is very old the structural state is not good. Many of the houses suffer from rising dampness due to the absence of damp-proof courses which cannot be remedied without extensive works in under-pinning. The sound methods of the original construction have ensured that deterioration of the structure is a very slow process, but heavy repair costs and low rentals have made housing repairs unprofitable to the landlords.

Apart from structural defects there is a general lack of the ordinary decent amenities in most of the smaller houses. My report of 1947 sets out the detailed figures in each Parish in your District. There is

a lack of internal water supplies, of proper washing facilities, of water closets and of electricity. Even in Ambleside and Grasmere only about half the houses under £22 rateable value have fixed baths.

These conditions may appear quaint and interesting to casual visitors, but they are disgusting and disheartening to those of your folk who have to live in them. Your Council is vigorously striving to bring water, sewerage and electricity to the valleys as the first essential step towards cleaning up the District.

The Rural Housing Survey results were presented to your Council in 1947 and I hope that the money you spent on making that detailed survey will not be wasted by filing away and forgetting the Report which was a starkly realistic social record of your home conditions, which have not since then shown any change for the better.

Slum Clearance.

Rural slums may be more picturesque than city slums, escape into the beautiful countryside may be easier, but within the four walls of a house the distinction is not so evident.

The persistent deadlock in new building makes any serious attempt at slum clearance in your District a hollow mockery. The best that can be done is to deal with those houses which have decayed to the stage of being structurally dangerous, and to commence action against any particularly bad houses which are brought to especial notice.

The Housing Act, 1949, offers financial grants to owners to recondition existing houses in a comprehensive manner, and I hope that owners of Class 4 and 5 houses will consider the possibilities of each house with a view to maintaining the architectural traditions of the District and making decent houses for our dalesfolk.

The Act also gives your Council extensive powers to acquire and recondition suitable sub-standard houses. This might be a lot quicker and cheaper than new building but it would meet only part of the demand. Courage would be required to reap full advantage from such schemes.

Closing Orders.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 12.

One closing order was made during the year on a basement dwelling in Chapel Stile. The house is still occupied but on vacation it is proposed to include this flat with the adjoining house.

This is the only closing order recorded in the Register of Local Land Charges.

Undertakings.
Housing Act, 1936, Section 11.

One undertaking to carry out works to make a house in Chapel Stile fit for human habitation was accepted during 1949. The work was completed and the life of the house has been usefully extended.

Undertakings not to use houses for human habitation were in force on 11 premises.

No applications were made for improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949.

Demolition Orders
Housing Act, 1936, Section 11.

No demolition orders were made during 1949. One demolition order is outstanding on Island View Cottage, Grasmere. This order was made by your Council in 1937, but was not enforced. The house is now illegally occupied. This is not satisfactory.

Clearance Areas.
Housing Act, 1936, Section 25.

An outstanding clearance order exists at Township, Patterdale. There are six houses in this Order, one is empty, one is occupied by an original tenant who refused the offer of a Council house, and four were allowed to be re-occupied by evacuees during the 1939-40 war on the understanding that they would return to their own area after the war. The houses are not occupied under Licence nor requisitioned under Defence Regulations, and their position is now irregular. I must recommend that all these persons should be rehoused as soon as possible.

Condemned Houses Occupied by Licence or Requisition.
Defence Regulations.

No condemned houses have been occupied by bombed-out persons by your licence under Defence Regulation 68A, nor by persons inadequately housed by your requisition under Defence Regulation 51.

Fit Houses Requisitioned.
Defence Regulation 51.

No houses are occupied under your Council's powers of requisition. Although many small houses are occupied only in holiday times by absentee owners or let furnished to casual visitors, any requisitioning proposals have been met with prompt evasive action.

Estimated Requirements.

Housing Act, 1936, *Section* 71.

In conjunction with your Building Surveyor I estimate that the following figures will provide an approximate guide for your future planning of housing requirements:—

Replacement of condemned houses still occupied	7
Replacement of Class 5 houses (condemnable)	92
Provision of a house for each family unit	71
	170

This figure of 170 is probably reliable. I now have exact details of the location of the 99 condemned and condemnable houses. The figure of 71 needing a separate home was obtained by individual questioning of every applicant on your housing list, under Ministry of Health Circular 171/48.

Your waiting list for new houses at the beginning of 1949 was 102, comprising 71 families without a separate home and 31 families who desire to change their present house. This should be a powerful stimulus for action.

In addition to these 170 houses required there is a demand from persons now resident outside the area for houses nearer their work within the Lakes Urban District.

You cannot start the erection of such a large number of houses at the present time on account of controls of material and labour, but you can go a long way towards cutting out subsequent delays. You know now from the Housing Survey, the number of Class 5 houses in each parish, you know from this report where the condemned houses still occupied are situated and you have some idea from your housing application lists where are the houses which are being shared by more than one family.

You therefore know how many houses are likely to be wanted in each parish, and indeed in each village, and your Council commenced during 1949 to undertake some of the preliminary work.

Local Authority Schemes.

In Ambleside a site was chosen for between 50 and 60 new houses at Greenbank. This scheme was approved in principle by the Ministry of Health, and your Architect prepared a layout for your approval. At the year end negotiations were in progress for acquisition of the land. This is a very pleasant central site which allows for future expansion.

In Grasmere a new site was chosen on the road to Easedale for between 20 and 30 houses. These will be in addition to the 10 houses to be erected at Benfield. This site was approved in principle by the Ministry of Health and your Architect is preparing layout plans.

In Great Langdale a site was selected at Chapel Stile for about 20 houses, approvals obtained and a layout prepared.

In Troutbeck a small site was chosen for 6 new houses near the Kilns and Town End. Approvals were obtained and a layout prepared.

In Patterdale a site was selected at Glenridding for about 20 houses and a layout was prepared. Approvals were being sought at the year end.

1949 was thus characterised by the most vigorous and sincere attempt in your Council's history to solve your urgent housing needs. It is your policy to minimise the delays in actual construction by pressing on to get layout and designs agreed, quantities prepared, and your site works, roads, sewers, water and electricity ready for the time when building may be allowed to commence.

The selection of centrally placed sites I feel will be particularly important for old people who need some community help in the time of their difficulties, but who enjoy the pride of their independence at other times.

The need for agricultural workers' houses is a more difficult problem at the present time. The policy of the Government is against tied cottages, the shortage of help in the farmhouse is hardening farmers' wives against the labourers living in, and there is the vicious circle of the worker wanting a house before he comes, and the local authority being empowered to let the house only to the tenant and not to the farmer. Furthermore, the siting of farm workers' cottages in existing villages may be satisfactory in arable farming, but it leads to difficulties in stock-rearing farms where the labour needs to be near the job. The County Agricultural Executive Committee have been reviewing the housing requirements of agricultural houses, and represented their finding to your Council for consideration.

Housing Building Progress.

Your Council had 8 houses under construction at the end of the year. These are situated at Blue Hill, Ambleside, and consist of four three-bedroom houses and four four-bedroom houses. These houses were commenced during the summer of 1947 and it is hoped that they will be completed during 1950, before their third anniversary.

At Benfield, Grasmere, your Council has experienced difficulty in obtaining tenders at prices acceptable to the Minister of Health, and negotiations were still in progress at the year end.

One house was completed during the year by private enterprise and two were under construction. Your total post-war achievements are four houses built by private enterprise.

Conversions during the year have produced an additional four houses, by the sub-division of existing houses. One fire-damaged house was rebuilt.

Tenants Selection.

The present method of selecting tenants for your Council houses is for your Housing Committee to consider all the applications and then select the tenants whom they consider are most in need of being rehoused. No points system is in operation and there is no anonymity.

Housing Management.

Your Council now own 53 houses. Routine repairs and maintenance are carried out by the local contractors. Your present estates do not justify the employment of direct labour, but in the years to come the number of your houses will be increased and the maintenance will require constant attention and you may be faced with considerable reconditioning of the rural houses.

The rents of your Council houses vary between 7/3d. and 8/0d. per week for the three-bedroomed houses, and 10/0d per week for the four-bedroomed houses all exclusive of rates. From these figures you will see that present day building costs will not enable you to maintain such rents on your new houses unless there is a substantial increase in the rate of Government subsidy.

The rateable value of your Council houses varies from £9 to £12.

The examination of rentals and rates may not seem at first to have much to do with public health, but it does have considerable significance. It is not unknown for persons who have been re-housed from poor quarters into modern Council houses to have to pay their rent and rate from that portion of their income which rightly belongs to the purchase of food. Domestic economy can effect the general standard of the public health almost as much as environmental conditions, and some attempt must be made to maintain a balance between these conflicting factors.

Verminous Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936, *Sections* 83-85.

One hostel was fumigated during the year.

Nuisance and Notices in Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936, *Sections* 91-100.

During the year the following action was taken:—

Preliminary Notices served	177
Statutory Notices served	3

In no case was it necessary to obtain an abatement order from the Court. There was a general desire on the part of owners to remedy defects in spite of the current difficulties of controls and the shortage of labour and materials.

Dangerous Buildings.

Public Health Act, 1936, *Section* 58.

No action was necessary.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, and Movable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936, *Sections* 268-269.

One licensed camping site was on the register at the end of the year, and five licences lapsed. No action was taken during the year. Your Council imposes conditions upon the grant of licences and requires their annual renewal. As this District is the nucleus of the future National Park it is most desirable that strict but unobtrusive supervision should be exercised over camping sites, to ensure that the natural beauty of the country is not despoiled by the careless few.

Unlicensed camping sites are scattered throughout the entire District, but very little nuisance arises from casual campers except on White Moss Common, where considerable fouling occurs in summer time for which your Council are seeking powers of control. Elsewhere the improvised sanitary arrangements and refuse disposal cause little nuisance, but casual campers take water from polluted becks at their own risk.

Four individual licences were in force during the year.

A collection of wooden sheds used for week-end camping was discovered in a well-screened part of the District near Skelwirth Bridge. These have been erected without the Council's permission and constitute an undesirable precedent for the indiscriminate and unauthorised erection of shacks which are not in keeping with the amenities of the District, and which aggravate the sanitary administration. Action is in progress to regularise this encampment.

Parks and Public Open Spaces.

Ambleside, Grasmere, and Glenridding have formal parks or recreation grounds which are much used by children and elderly persons for whom the wild nature of the fells is too strenuous. Many of these places have beautiful vistas of the surrounding district and are sheltered from the prevailing winds.

Bathing Facilities.

Your Council reconditioned and re-equipped the changing and life-saving provisions at Waterhead where a shallow portion of Windermere Lake is used for bathing.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water Act, 1945.

General.

The public water supplies are limited to four areas of your Urban District, Ambleside, Grasmere, Hartsop and Chapel Stile. The quality of the Ambleside and Grasmere supplies is satisfactory after treatment but the Chapel Stile supply is variable. The results of laboratory examinations of the raw and treated waters are set out in Appendix A.

Only the Grasmere supply is unfailing in quality. The Ambleside supply is generally adequate except in periods of drought, when the grossly excessive consumption makes it necessary to purchase water from the Thirlmere aqueduct of Manchester Corporation.

The Chapel Stile supply runs very short in dry weather but your Council has now installed an emergency ancillary supply from the main beck.

The Hartsop supply completed during the year has not yet revealed its capabilities and limitations.

Ambleside Supply.

The source is Scandale Beck, which is upland surface run-off from the rocks of the Borrowdale volcanic series. The gathering ground is uninhabited, but sheep grazing throughout the year and cattle grazing in summertime occur above the intake. The beck comes down alongside a popular walking route, and, although pollution is minimal and dilution is great, the water is strained through a copper screen and chlorinated. A covered storage reservoir of 366,000 gallons storage capacity has a top water-level of 442 O.D.

The supply to Ambleside and parts of the parishes of Rydal and Loughrigg is thence by gravitation. The average daily consumption is

about 350,000 gallons or about 143 gallons per head for 2,450 estimated consumers in 754 houses, which suggests enormous wastage. The headworks were constructed in 1881.

Grasmere Supply.

The source is Tongue Ghyll, which is also upland water from similar rocks on an uninhabited catchment area. Sheep grazing occurs throughout the year, and the ghyll is followed by the track leading down from Grisedale Hause, much used by holiday walkers. The water is therefore filtered through Limestone and chlorinated. There is a covered storage reservoir nearby of 100,000 gallons capacity, with a top water level of 642 O.D. The supply to Grasmere township is thence by gravitation, and the average daily consumption is about 100,000 gallons or 118 gallons per head for 850 estimated consumers in 259 houses. The headworks were constructed in 1901.

Chapel Stile.

The main source is Meg's Ghyll, which is also upland water from Borrowdale volcanic rock. The gathering ground is uninhabited, but light sheep-grazing occurs throughout the year. The water is untreated and is very variable in bacteriological quality. There is a small tank of 6,000 gallons capacity by the intake, but there is no storage reservoir. The supply to the villages of Chapel Stile and Elterwater is by gravitation. The average daily consumption is in excess of 10,000 gallons or 200 gallons per head for 500 estimated consumers. Although there is excessive waste the storage capacity is so small that the supply fails in times of drought. Waste detection investigations revealed and remedied one severe leakage during the year.

The emergency source is water pumped from a sump-hole in the valley gravel bed near New Bridge into the rising main of the Meg's Ghyll system. The water is chlorinated and mixed with the water from the other source. It is probable that this ancillary supply will be required only in times of extreme drought, but I see no reason why it could not be used for meeting any increased demand caused by extension of the present system of mains. A major scheme for the Great Langdale valley is also under consideration, and if it is adopted it will supersede Meg's Ghyll and the emergency ancillary supply.

Hartsop.

During 1948 a petition was received from the inhabitants of Hartsop representing that the existing private supply system had become defunct

and that a public supply was urgently needed. Your Council acquired the private system, completely reconditioned it in 1949, and constructed some works to safeguard the purity of the source. The scheme appeared to work well during the year.

Glenridding.

During the protracted drought in 1949 the private supply systems in Glenridding virtually failed and in order to safeguard the public health at the height of the holiday season your Council took emergency measures to install a temporary supply.

With the generous assistance of the Mining Company their high pressure turbine feed pipe at Rattlebeck was tapped and your Water Engineer laid a surface pipe across the fields to couple up with the existing distribution mains. This prompt action saved Glenridding from much discomfort and possibly from disease. Until the main scheme matures your Council seek to continue this emergency source.

The Rural Housing Survey complete in 1948 revealed the following conditions in the rural parishes outside Ambleside and Grasmere. Of the houses of a rateable value of £22 or under, the percentage of houses without internal water supply was:—

Patterdale	52 per cent.
Langdales	49 ,, ,,
Troutbeck	23 ,, ,,
Rydal and Loughrigg	13 ,, ,,

Outside the areas of the public water supplies conditions are generally poor. There are a few small privately-owned systems of varying quality, and the rest of the District relies upon becks, small runners, superficial springs, and surface drainage catchpits, unreliable in yield and many of undesirable quality.

No comprehensive survey has been made of individual private water supplies, and staff shortage precludes one in the near future.

Shortage of water is brought to my notice in times of over a fortnight's dry weather by the frequent complaints of distress from the populated areas of Troutbeck, Patterdale, and the Langdales. It is ironical that a district with 70 to over 100 inches of rain in a year should be short of water, but the reason is that the impervious volcanic rocks cause a rapid run off and the storage capacity of privately-owned systems has been dictated more by economy than foresight. The quality of the average private supply fluctuates widely, and I can do no more than warn the users that they drink it at their own risk,

that they should have it tested for purity at regular intervals, and that if in doubt they should boil it.

Your Council are fully aware of this bad general water supply situation, and have commenced the preparation of schemes for improving the worst areas of Patterdale, Troutbeck, and the Langdales. There have been many difficulties, both national and local, during the fifteen years of your existence, and very little effective progress has been made.

The frustrations have been a source of sorrow to your Council and have aroused impatience or despair in the folk who live in these areas, they have prevented the bringing of the amenities of a safe and sufficient water supply and the decencies of a twentieth-century sanitation system into the more populous parts of your rural areas. I hope that when controls and restrictions are removed we shall be allowed to set our houses in order.

The Patterdale Scheme was commenced in the days of the West Ward, before the parish was transferred to form a constituent of the Lakes Urban District in 1935. A scheme was drawn up to use water from a group of springs above Braesteads Farm in Grisedale to supply both Glenridding and Patterdale. Negotiations for the acquisition of the source have been protracted, but during 1949 planning approval was obtained, and the scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval and loan sanction. In September the Ministry sought further information, and at the year end your Council were preparing their replies. There seems some possibility that the stage of a public inquiry may be reached during 1950.

The Langdales were under consideration before 1935 when these areas were in South Westmorland Rural District. A scheme for Little Langdale had been made but your Council did not find it to be acceptable. Further schemes for supplying either Little Langdale separately or both the Langdales together have been discussed off and on for many years, but difficulties appear to have been experienced. Some progress has been made, and the Little Langdale scheme went to the Ministry of Health for approval in 1947 but was returned for amendment and re-submitted in 1949. The public inquiry will be held in January, 1950.

The Troutbeck water supply has been discussed several times, with a special revival of interest during the war years. This village is in the area of supply of Windermere Urban District, but your Council are at present taking steps to have it transferred to your own area of supply. This village is dependent for water upon a series of catchpits, becks and small private installations which are very unreliable in yield,

almost dry-out in time of drought, and whose quality I suspect is very variable. Your Council's consulting engineers prepared a scheme during 1949 for supplying the village from Woundale Beck. The approval of the County Council was obtained, but at the year end the scheme had not yet reached the stage of submission to the Ministry of Health.

A scheme for the general safeguarding of the purity of the public water supplies was instituted during 1948. The elementary precautions of the medical examinations of workmen and the regular laboratory examination of the water should protect a popular holiday area from serious water-borne diseases, but staff shortage prevented the proper carrying out of the scheme.

SEWERAGE.

Disposal Methods and Works.

Public Health Act, 1936, *Section* 15.

Public sewerage systems are at present very limited in the District, and I have to advise your Council that extensions and new installations are desirable in several places, particularly in view of the proposed new water supplies.

Ambleside is the only area within your District which possesses a sewage disposal plant of any size. These works are not functioning efficiently and the final effluent is very variable in quality during normal working and extremely bad during the weekly flushing of the plant, which causes massive pollution of the river with untreated sewage.

Your Council's consulting engineers submitted to you during the year a scheme for major reconstruction of the works, but as the cost was very high, an alternative proposal was made to effect certain improvements and urgent repairs which may at some future time be incorporated in the larger scheme.

Chapel Stile is sewered into a large septic tank which has an outfall into the river.

Troutbeck has a short length of sewer which serves only a few houses and leads into a small septic tank. When Troutbeck receives the proposed new water supply it may be necessary to construct a proper sewerage system. The subsoil is too shallow for the satisfactory operation of individual cesspools for so many houses in the village, but it may be possible to construct a limited number of group septic tanks in favourable sites. Your consulting engineers submitted a draft scheme

for full sewerage and treatment, but as the capital cost is very heavy your Council inclined towards grouped tanks in the first instance.

Patterdale is sewered by a short length of piping into a septic tank in Robinson's field.

No public sewerage system exists in Grasmere, Glenridding, Rydal and Little Langdale, nor in the more scattered rural hamlets and townships.

Grasmere already has a public water supply and the sewage disposal at present is into individual cesspools which are emptied yearly by your Council. The effluents pass into the gravelly subsoil and cause little nuisance, except on the harder land bordering the valley bottom. Considering that the resident population of Grasmere is about 900, the number of houses is 274, and the average water consumption is 118 gallons per head per day, it will be necessary at some future date to consider the proper sewerage of the township to meet its development and holiday popularity.

Glenridding was considered during the year in view of the proposed water supply and your Council favoured the extension of the system of grouped septic tanks. Negotiations were commenced with the principal owners of property in this village to get this work done in advance of the water scheme so that the present deplorable privy-middens may be abolished as soon as possible.

Prevalence of Water-Closets and Other Methods.

Water-closets have been installed mainly in the areas which are served by public sewers and in the better type of house where private sewage systems have been made. A Survey made during 1947 revealed the following position:—

Parish.	Total Houses	With W.C.		Without W.C.	
		No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
Ambleside	710	698	98·3	12	1·7
Grasmere	274	219	80	55	20
Langdales	203	86	43	117	57
Rydal & Loughrigg ...	139	104	75	35	25
Patterdale	251	146	58	105	42
Troutbeck	131	86	66	45	34
TOTALS	1,708	1,339	78·5	369	21·5

Langdales, Patterdale and Troutbeck are the worst parishes, and as your District will be the nucleus of the future National Park and will receive an increasing number of holiday visitors from this country and overseas, it is most desirable that the extension to your sewerage schemes shall be followed by the conversion of earth-closets, privies, and privy middens to more modern hygienic water-closets.

Conversions.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 47.

Fourteen conversions to water-closets were undertaken during the year. No grants were made by your Council towards the cost of these works.

Public Conveniences.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 87.

Public conveniences are situated at Ambleside, Grasmere and Waterhead. Plans for the erection of conveniences at Glenridding were made before the war, but it has not been possible to commence the work. In view of the large number of holidaymakers who arrive in Glenridding from the Lake Steamers, it is most desirable that proper sanitary arrangements should be available.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 72.

Domestic refuse is collected from the whole of your District with the exception of a few detached and isolated dwellings. Your Council's own vehicle and staff are used for the work in all but the Hartsop area, where refuse is collected by a private contractor.

Refuse Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 76.

Disposal of refuse is carried out by controlled tipping on five of your Council's tips and one private tip. The greatest difficulty in controlled tipping is to obtain sufficient covering material, and this is very scarce locally.

The Ambleside tip is not very suitably situated in the centre of a popular holiday resort, and the amenities of the township would be improved by some alternative arrangements. The tip has long since become full and is now rising well above the level of the adjoining land. A new site is urgently required.

Your Council were negotiating during the year for a new tip outside Ambleside to serve that township and the Langdales area. If it is secured it will enable the three existing unsatisfactory tips to be restored to an inoffensive condition.

The Grasmere tip is well screened from view and away from the township. It is getting rather full but there is no immediate urgency for obtaining a new site.

The Elterwater tip is shocking. The use of common land for virtually uncontrolled tipping in one of the beauty spots of Langdale cannot be defended. I have recommended that this unsightly mess be cleared up.

The Troutbeck tip in Benslop Wood is very well hidden by trees, but it is not an ideal tip as it is thrown down such steep ground, giving an extensive face of decomposing garbage which cannot be satisfactorily covered up. I recommend that better arrangements should be made.

The Chapel Stile tip has been closed.

The Patterdale tip at Millmoss Common is naturally screened from the road and offers space for a considerable time to come.

The whole matter of refuse disposal has always been a difficulty in your District. The natural beauty of the country must not be desecrated by multiple dumps of ugly human refuse, yet the refuse must be put somewhere and the land does not yield enough covering material to hide and minimise the consequent nuisances of unsightliness, smell, rats and fire. In the days of horse-drawn refuse carts and local contractors it was obviously imperative to use multiple local tips but now motor transport has changed the situation. I think you should aim at centralising your tips, thus limiting the nuisances and favouring better supervision of the tip faces.

Salvage of Waste Material.

Salvage Recovery Order, 1940.

Salvage was carried out in the national interest at a loss to your Council. It is quite obvious that with six small scattered tips serving a mere 5,000 of population, the sorting and collection of waste materials will be most uneconomical. However, your Council were aware of the wider issues and they have ensured that the salvage of waste-paper has been steadily maintained and the public stimulated at intervals to improve their yield. Rags, bones and iron were also salvaged in small amounts. Salvage was discontinued at the latter end of the year.

Street Cleansing.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 77.

The work is undertaken by the Highways Department, and the streets are well maintained.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Orders and Regulations made thereunder, your Council has the duty of carrying out specific responsibilities in the registration of certain food premises, in the supervision of milk distributors and certain dairies, and in the wide field of protection of the public from food-borne diseases. The County Council are responsible for detecting the adulteration of foodstuffs, and the supervision of the sale of drugs.

The Act came into force just before the commencement of the late war, and apart from the Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations which were continued from earlier Acts, its full operation has not yet been locally achieved. The Ministries of Health and Food are sponsoring a vigorous campaign against food-borne diseases, and the proper implementation of the Act should give a greater measure of protection to the public. The co-operation of the catering trade and the education of all food handlers in a high standard of hygiene will be sought under the wide powers provided by the Act.

At the instigation of the Ministry of Food your Council is preparing byelaws to govern the handling and wrapping of food and the sale of foodstuffs in the open air, and it is expected that these will become operative in 1950.

Precautions Against Contamination.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 13.

Food traders and caterers observe a fairly good standard of cleanliness on the average, but considerable work lies ahead in raising the standard of those who are now below that average. I want to see cleaner food, cleaner premises, and cleaner food-handlers.

This aim is of major importance. It will involve my department carrying out your statutory responsibilities with particular diligence, and it will require the education and co-operation of all food-handlers within your area.

I am confident that this co-operation will be forthcoming, I believe that traders are eager to set their premises in order in the interests of enterprise and competition, and they are anxious to eliminate slipshod methods among their staffs.

Thorough cleanliness in the kitchen is far more important than titivation in the dining-room. No food trader should be ashamed to show his customers behind the scenes, and every customer should be confident that the food he eats is clean and has been cleanly prepared. He has a right to be so protected, and your Council is the guardian of that right.

Food-borne diseases, mild dysenteries, and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

Ice-cream Trade.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, *Section* 14.

Ice-cream (*Heat Treatment, etc.*) *Regulations,* 1947.

The following premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale ...	2
Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale	2
Storage and sale only	12

A comprehensive code of standards for ice-cream factories, plant and retail units was circulated to the traders. The open barrow or cart has been abolished, and the enforcement of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, has greatly improved the technique of manufacture.

Prepared Meats.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, *Section* 14.

The number of premises on the Register under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, used for the preparation of sausages, potted meats, pressed meat, and pickled foods was 9 at the year end. No particular difficulties have been encountered in these trades.

MILK.

On 1st October, 1949, a major reorganisation of powers and duties took place in the supervision of milk between the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the County Councils and the County District Councils.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, had remained in abeyance since its enactment, and after the transfer of certain responsibilities from the Ministry of Health to the Ministries of Food, and Agriculture and Fisheries, the Act came into operation this year.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-43, and the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1948, were replaced by a new set of Regulations made jointly by the three Ministries of Health, Food, and Agriculture and Fisheries, which considerably strengthened the powers of supervision. The new Regulations which now mainly govern milk are:—

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949;
The Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949;
The Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The effect of these Regulations and the associated Statutes includes the following changes which effect the powers and duties of local authorities:—

Your Council transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries the duties of registering and supervising dairies and cowsheds.

Your Council acquired the duty of registering and supervising milk distributors and dairies which are not dairy farms.

Your Council transferred to the County Council the licensing powers for pasteurisers' and sterilisers' licences.

Your Council retain licensing powers and supervisory duties for all other special designation milk dealers' and supplementary licences, but your right to charge fees for these has been abolished.

The County Council transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries the licensing powers and supervisory duties for the production of designated milk.

The Regulations include many provisions which considerably assist maintenance of the public health, and give legislative force to many of the principles of common cleanliness.

There are detailed requirements for cleanliness in dairies, in milk vessels, in retail vehicles, and in milk handlers.

The powers of the Medical Officer of Health are greatly strengthened in dealing with suspected and proved carriers of disease, and with infected milk.

Accredited milk will not be recognised after 1954, and its fate is welcomed.

No tuberculin tested milk licences will be granted after 1957 unless the herd is attested. This is a forward step.

No tuberculin tested milk licences will be granted after 1957 unless the herd is attested. This will be the completion of the previous step.

The Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949, was enacted during the year and provides for the logical extension of the above Regulations to make compulsory the retail sale of only special designation milk in specified areas. This programme will be linked with the progress of the Attested Herds Scheme to complete eradication areas.

I think that the day is not far distant when your District will be declared free from bovine tuberculosis and the only milk allowed to be sold will be tuberculin tested milk from attested herds or heat treated milk. Very rapid progress is being made towards that goal, and we should not be distracted by side issues.

1st January—30th September, 1949.

Registration of Dairies and Dairymen.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943.

Total number of registered Dairies	74
Total number of registered Dairymen	74
Producer-retailers within the District	39
Producer-retailers outside the District	5
Retailers from premises within the District	2
Retailers from premises outside the District	Nil

48 visits of inspection were made to milk premises. Some Informal Notices were issued to effect improvements, and no Legal Notices are outstanding.

1st October—31st December, 1949.

Registration of Milk Distributors and Dairies which are not Dairy Farms.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Total number of registered Distributors	2
Total number of registered Dairies	2

The retail distribution of milk is both by bottled milk and the old-fashioned loose method. Traders are becoming keener to meet the desire of the enlightened customers for bottling. Milk-round vehicles are maintained generally in a clean condition. Rationalisation of milk-rounds is still in force, and is not in the best interests of the consumer. It is disappointing that more tuberculin tested milk is not available in the District, but as the number of attested herds increase there will be more opportunities for the public to be supplied.

Cleanliness of Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, *Section* 68.

33 samples of milk were taken for cleanliness testing during the year. In the forthcoming year it is planned to sample each retailer at

quarterly intervals in the larger villages and as often as practicable in other areas. With my limited staffing resources I intend to concentrate upon safe milk before clean milk.

Pathogenic Organisms in Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, *Section* 68.

32 samples were examined biologically in guinea-pigs for the presence of tuberculous organisms and one of these was positive. The Divisional Veterinary Officer examined the herd but the cow was not traced.

The finding of tubercle bacilli in milk is difficult, and one must bear in mind the human biological tests on your own children with their tragic record of 23 new cases and two deaths in the past 10 years from non-respiratory tuberculosis. The growing popularity of the Attested Herds Scheme and Tuberculin Tested Milk production, together with the pasteurisation of accredited and ungraded milks will gradually reduce this toll of human suffering. More extensive routine sampling will be carried out in future years.

No instances of other disease producing organisms in milk were found. We know that Brucella Abortus, the organism which causes contagious abortion in cattle and undulant fever in man, can be isolated from a good proportion of bulked milk supplies, and it is probable that milk infections constantly occur. No serious cases have been encountered and the veterinary profession is taking steps to inoculate cattle against the disease.

No Notices were issued under Article 19 of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, prohibiting persons from taking part in dairying activities.

Designated Milks.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

The County Council was responsible up to 30th September, 1949, for the granting of annual licences authorising the use of the special designations "Tuberculin Tested" and "Accredited" in respect of establishments at which the milk is produced and bottled or only produced. The following establishments in the District were so licensed:—

Tuberculin Tested	4
Accredited	1

Your District Council is responsible for the granting of dealers' and supplementary animal licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested and

Accredited milks. The following licence was in force during the year:—

One dealer's Licence for T.T. Milk.

There are no pasteurisation plants within the District, nor are there any plants for the heat treatment of milk in accordance with the Ministry of Food action under Defence Regulations 55G.

Adulteration of Milk and Other Foods.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, *Sections* 1-7.

This matter is the responsibility of the County Council and I anticipate that the County Medical Officer of Health will include in his Annual Report some information relating to this aspect.

Licensed Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, *Section* 57-61.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses but these are not in use on account of the centralisation of all slaughtering under the Ministry of Food's arrangements. There are no knackers' yards in your District.

Condemnation of Meat.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, *Sections* 10 *and* 12.

All slaughtering is carried out at the Kendal Abattoir, where the meat is inspected by the Borough Inspectors. It was, however, found necessary during the year for your Inspector to condemn the following meat which had deteriorated in the course of distribution:—

39 lbs. of meat.

Considerable improvement is needed in some of the vehicles used for the distribution of meat.

Condemnation of Other Food.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, *Sections* 10 *and* 12.

The following foodstuffs were condemned by your Inspector during the year:—

Tinned Fruit	32	tins
Tinned Fish	15	,,
Tinned Vegetables, etc.	102	,,
Tinned Milk	10	,,
Tinned Meat	38	,,
Bacon	7	lbs.
Miscellaneous	78	tins

General Sanitary Inspection.

Your Council employ one part-time Sanitary Inspector and his salary is apportioned between his sanitary inspection duties and his other

duties in a proportion approved by the Ministry of Health. You receive, through the County Council, a grant of one-half of that apportionment of his salary allocated to sanitary inspection, and this should therefore be the basis upon which his time is devoted to the various duties.

Although the relaxation of civil building control afforded some relief a very much greater added burden was imposed by your Council accepting delegated powers under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

This involves a volume of detailed clerical work of an imperative nature which is hardly commensurate with the few powers conferred on your Council. The bulk of this work falls upon the same man.

It is difficult to arrange duties in combined appointments in a small local authority, particularly when an inspector is single-handed, and there has to be considered elasticity to cover all the responsibilities. I am keeping this matter under close review as I am of the opinion that sanitary inspection work is being prejudiced by these other duties.

Your Inspector carries out his duties in a most able manner, and during the year he made 1,073 inspections on all types of work, but there is a limit to what one man can do in a day, and we are both anxious to maintain the efficiency of our Department in carrying out your Council's responsibilities.

Tabulated summary of work carried out by Sanitary Inspector:—

Housing Inspections	134
New Houses	382
Building Bye-laws	79
Building Licences	28
Food Premises	48
Salvage	29
House Refuse Removal	44
Factories	15
Surveys	37
Drainage	127
Infectious Diseases	6
Rooms Fumigated	24
Milk Samples	33
Cowsheds	25
Schools	1
Caravans	20
Miscellaneous	147
	1073

Offensive Trades.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 107.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

Factories.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 52 factories on the Register. 15 inspections were made and no written notices were served. No Legal Notices remained outstanding at the end of the year. No prosecutions were required. No references were made to H.M. Inspector and 2 were received from him.

No lists of outworkers were supplied to your Council by factory owners, and I have no official knowledge of any cases of default in this respect.

There are no basement bakehouses in the District.

Form 572 (revised) was sent directly to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, giving the details of your Urban District's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937, in accordance with Section 127 of that Act.

Factory Inspections.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	6	—	—
Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	37	9	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	52	15	—	—

No defects were found.

Shops Act, 1912-1936.

48 visits were made under the Shops Acts for the supervision of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, and the maintenance of suitable temperature. Informal Notices were served whenever any contraventions were observed.

Common Lodging Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936, *Part* IX.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

Rent Restriction Acts.

No action was taken during the year under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restriction Acts and any contraventions of Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1938, regarding rent book entries were corrected informally.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was required.

Laboratory Services.

Public Health Act, 1936, *Section* 196.

Satisfactory laboratory facilities were available both at Kendal and Carlisle for all public health services. During 1947 a new scheme was inaugurated by the Public Health Laboratory Service for the performance of all laboratory examinations of a preventive and epidemiological nature, free of charge to the local authority and the patient. This should do much to encourage the freer use of modern diagnostic methods by general practitioners and your Health Department.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

It was not necessary during the year to deal with any cases requiring removal.

Bye-laws.

Bye-laws on public health matters are in force for:—

Building;
Slaughterhouses.

New Legislation.

Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, became operative on 1st October, 1949.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, become operative 1st October, 1949.

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, became operative 1st October 1949.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milks) Regulations, 1949, became operative 1st October, 1949.

APPENDIX "A."

LABORATORY EXAMINATION OF THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

Nature of Test.	Standards Max.	Ambleside Raw.	Ambleside Treated.	Grasmere Raw.	Grasmere Treated.	Chapel Stile.	Hartsop
Pr. *coli* count 37°	3-10	20	0	17	0	5	+
Faecal coli/strep.	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
Character	—	—	—	Clear and Colourless	Clear	Clear	
Reaction, *p*H.	—	7·5	7·5	7·2	7·2	7·0	
F. & S. Ammonia	·005	·005	·005	2·5	·007	·003	Less than ·0001
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	·008	·026	·025	3·5	·010	·008	,, ,, ·0001
Total Solids	—	5·0	5·0	3·2	3·2	6·2	4·3
Hardness Perm.	—	3·0	3·0	1·1	1·3	1·4	—
Hardness Temp.	—	1·6	1·6	·4	·4	3·2	—
Hardness Total	30	4·6	4·6	1·5	1·7	4·6	—
Chlorides	3	0·88	·90	·5	·55	0·7	0·9
Nitrates	·1	·15	·15	—	0	0	0.2
Nitrites	0	0	0	—	0	0	0·0005
O·2 Absorbed	·1	·031	·03	·086	—	·006	Less than ·01
Poisonous Metals	0	0	0	0	—	0	0
Plumbosolvency	0	0·3	·03	0	—	0	—
Rainfall 24 hours	—	0·34″	·34″	Heavy	·94″	·19″	—
Date Sampled	—	15/10/47	15/10/47	1/9/48	25/8/48	30/7/48	3/8/48
Sample Point	—	Inlet to plant	Rothay Holme	Tongue Ghyll	Grasmere	Chapel-Stile	Hartsop
Laboratory	—	Kendal	Kendal	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Runcorn

Chemical Analyses results in parts per 100,000